programme of construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya at any time after 12th of March; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to keep a check on such programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Dharma Sansad during a meeting in the last Maha Kumbh in January, 2001 decided to commence construction of Ram temple on any day after March 12, 2002. Under Section 7(2) of the Acquisition of Certain area at Ayodhya Act, 1993 and in compliance with the Supreme Court Judgement dated 24.10.1994 in the case of Dr. Ismail Faruqui & ohters *vs.* Union of India and others, relating to Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Central Government as a statutory receiver is duty bound to maintain *status quo* as on 7.1.93 in the disputed area. The security arrangements at Ayodhya have been further strengthened and necessary steps taken to maintain law and order.

Illegal Madarsas along Indian borders with Nepal and Bangladesh

692. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minis*er of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of illegal Madarsas and mosques have come up along India's border with Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether they have been identified; and

(c) if so, what efforts are being taken to close down such illegal settlements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Reports are received from various security agencies from time to time on the functioning of places of worship and religious instruction including madarsas and mosques along India's borders with Nepal and Bangladesh. The State Governments have been advised to take action under the provisions of the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988, wherever such places of worship/religious instruction are found to be indulging in illegal activities.